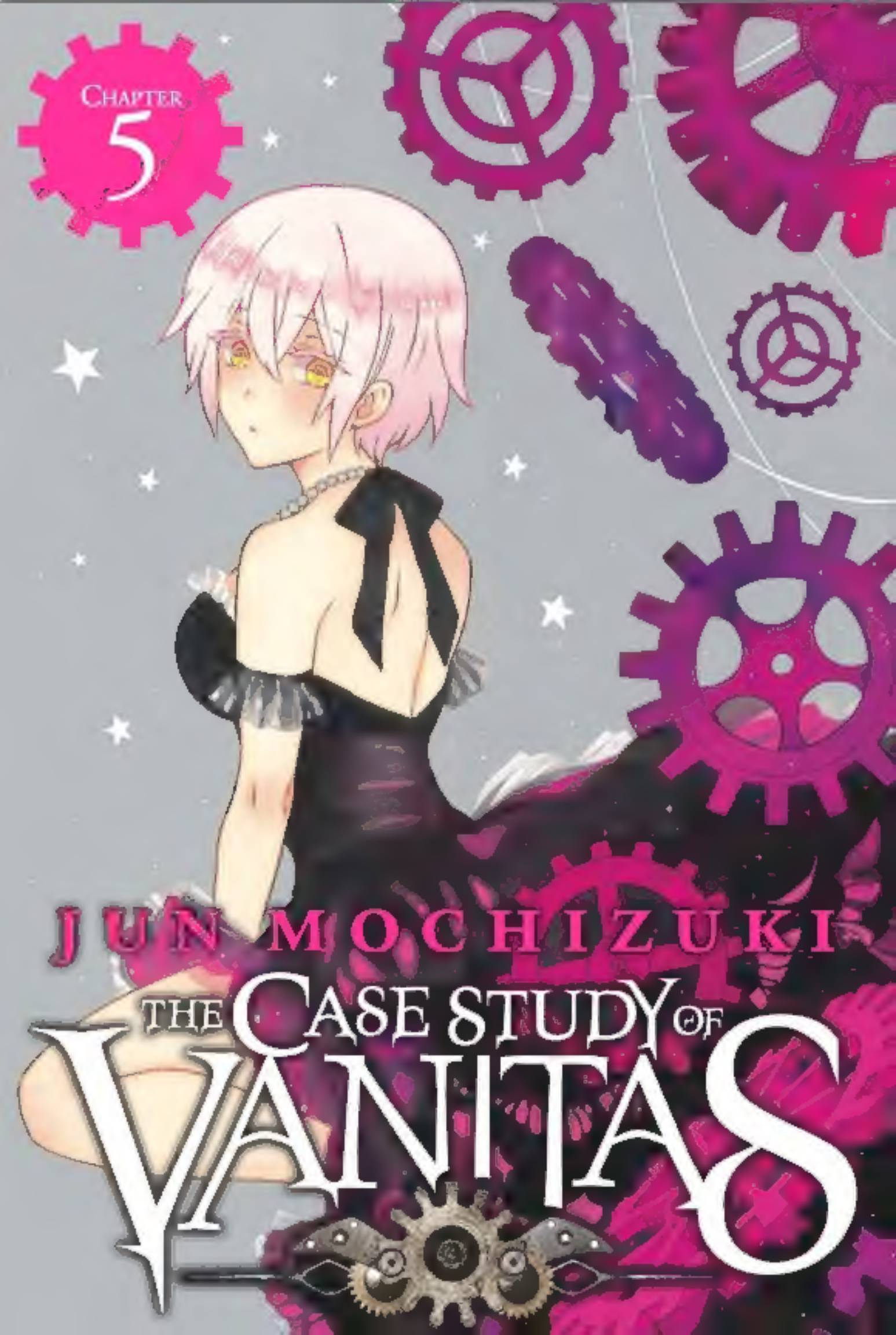

Chapter
5
JUN MOCHIZUKI
THE CASE STUDY OF
VANITAS

JUN MOCHIZUKI
THE CASE STUDY OF
VANITAS
Mémoire 5 Archiviste
FANGS THAT REVEAL BLOOD

THEY SAY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DRINKING ANY BLOOD AT ALL LATELY.
I HEARD, NOÉ.

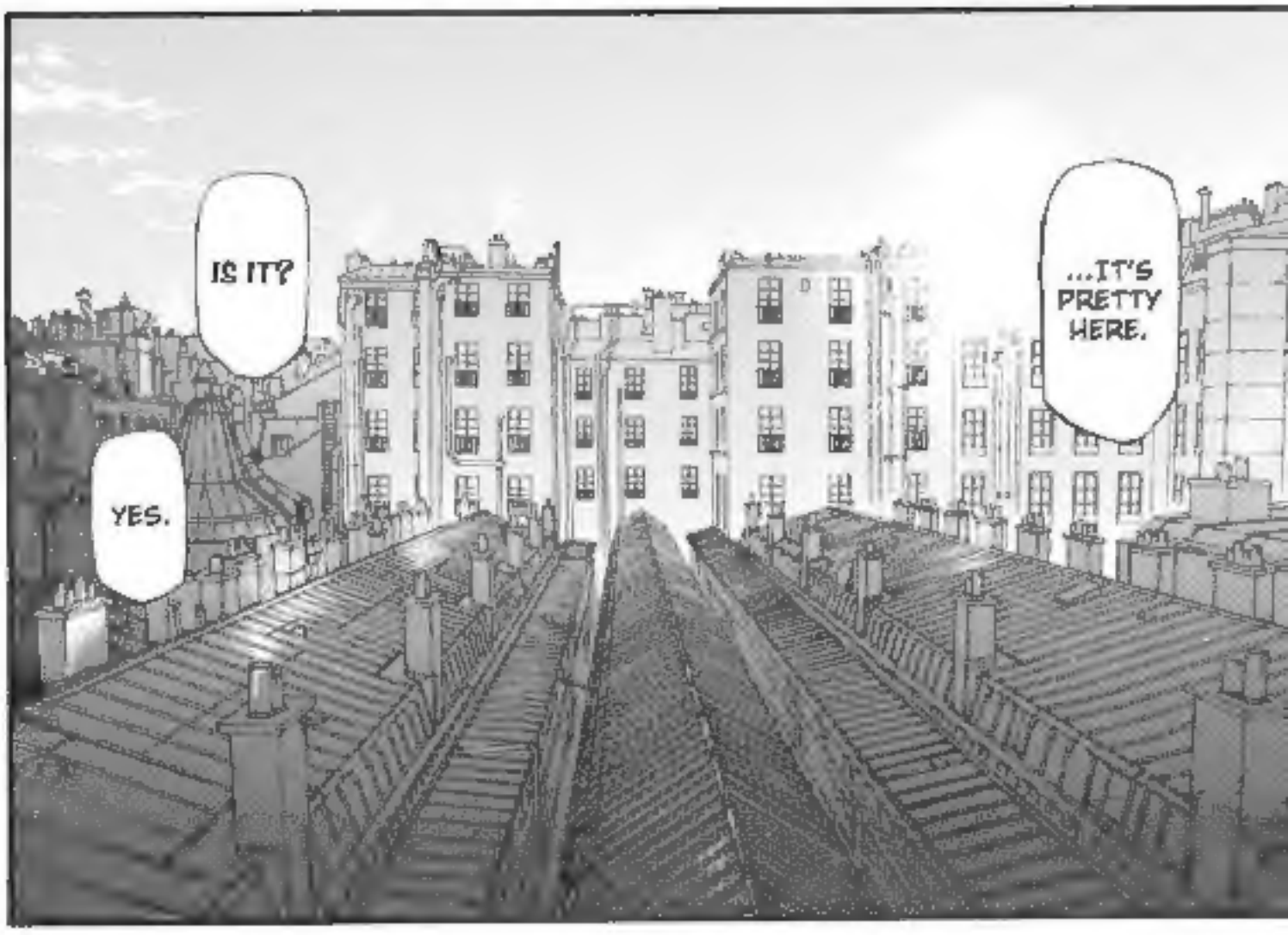
WELL, I...
I'M...AN "ARCHIVISTE," SO...
...YOU LIKE BLOOD ABOUT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE TARTE TATIN, SO I WONDERED WHAT WAS UP.
TRUE. IT'S JUST ...
...SO? IT'S NOT AS IF I'LL DIE IF I DON'T DRINK IT.

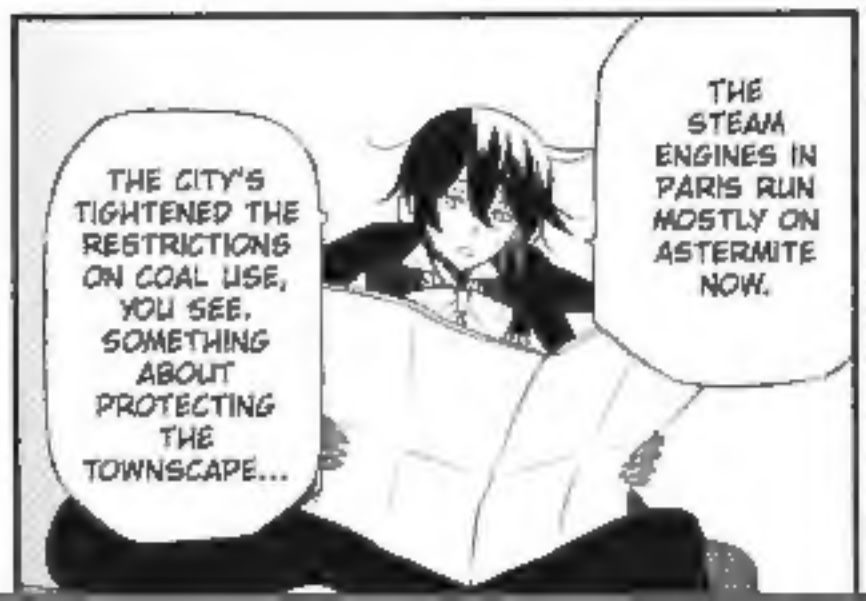
...NOÉ?
WHAT DO YOU SAY...
DO YOU WANT TO DRINK MY BLOOD?

EVEN IF YOU DRINK IT, YOU WON'T SEE ANYTHING ANYMORE, YOU KNOW.
DON'T WORRY.

ガチャ

A DREAM
...
...
MEOW (KNOCK)
FINALLY AWAKE, HM?
AGH. MURR ...
MROOOOOWR.
!
COME ON OUT.
IT'S TIME FOR BREAKFAST.


IS IT?
YES.
...IT'S PRETTY HERE.


THE CITY'S TIGHTENED THE RESTRICTIONS ON COAL USE, YOU SEE. SOMETHING ABOUT PROTECTING THE TOWNSCAPE...
THE STEAM ENGINES IN PARIS RUN MOSTLY ON ASTERMITE NOW.

A BOOK I ONCE READ SAID THAT PARIS WAS MUCH SOOTIER AND THE AIR WAS BAD. SO I JUST ASSUMED...
WELL, I HEAR IT REALLY WAS LIKE THAT A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

AS THE RESEARCH ADVANCES, THEY'LL PROBABLY FIND EVEN MORE APPLICATIONS FOR IT.
IN AIRSHIP LIFT GENERATORS, TO LIGHT THE STREETLAMPS OF PARIS, IN CARS AND TRAMS...
ASTERMITE IS USED EVERYWHERE.
UNLIKE COAL, IT DOESN'T POLLUTE THE AIR, BUT THAT ISN'T ALL.

THAT ROCK TRULY DESERVES TO BE CALLED A "PANACEA STONE."

...IT CREATED A MINERAL THAT DIDN'T EXIST IN THIS WORLD BEFORE...
TO THINK ...

...REALLY WAS AN ASTOUNDING INCIDENT, WASN'T IT? REWRITING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD LIKE THAT...

BABEL...

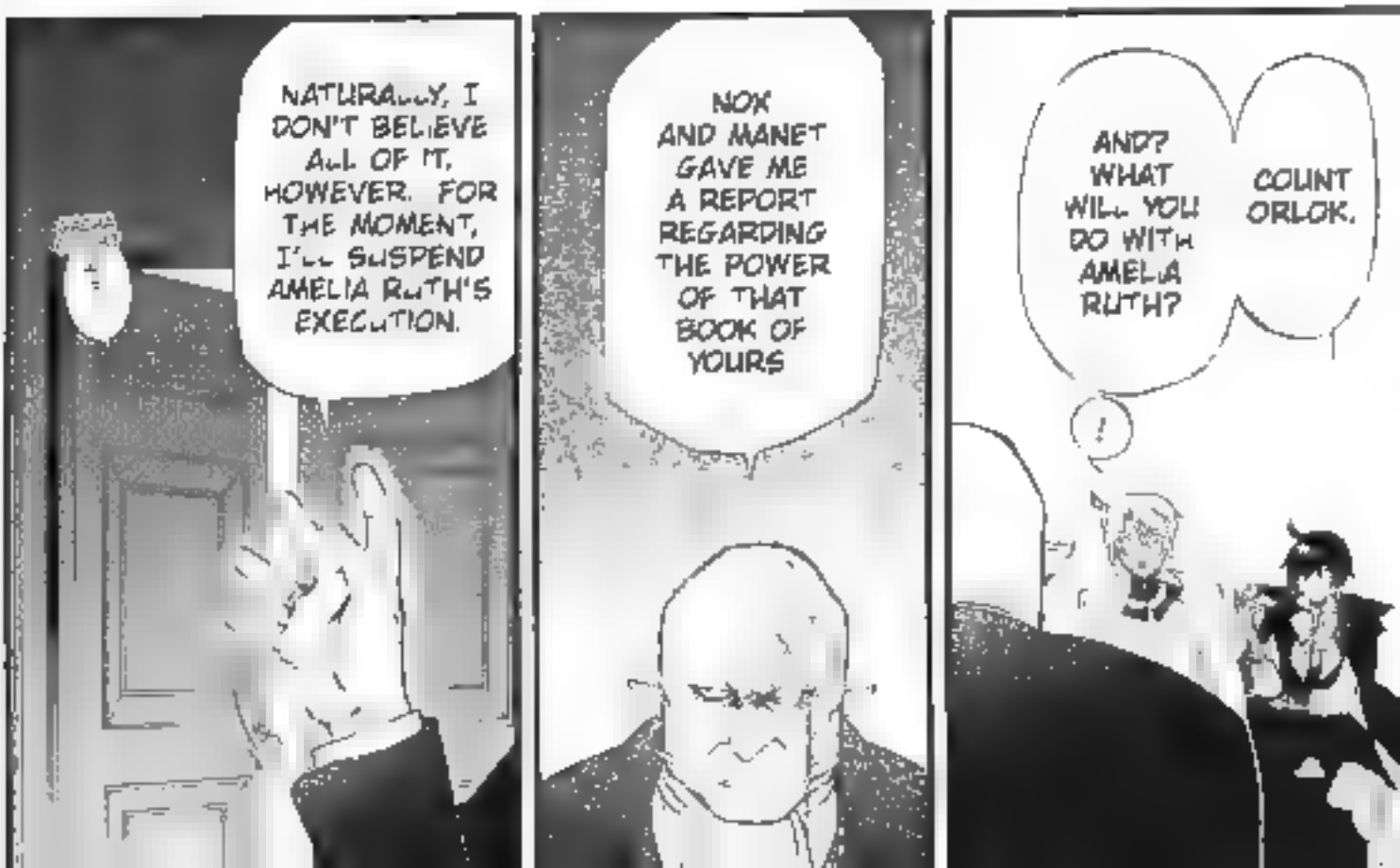
...WHEN WE RETURNED TO COUNT ORLOK'S, WE WERE TURNED AWAY AT THE DOOR.
IF YOU GO TO THIS HOTEL, THEY'LL PUT YOU UP FOR THE NIGHT.
COME BACK TOMORROW !!

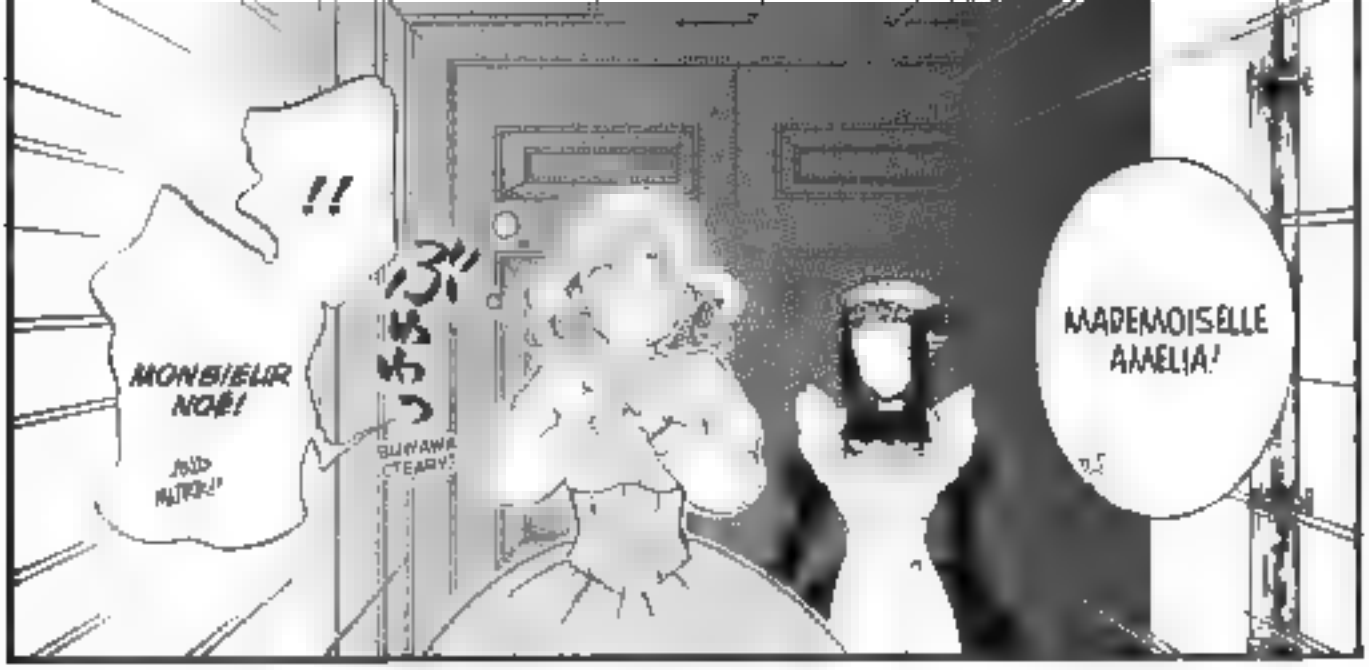
ALL RIGHT. LET'S HEAD OVER TO ORLOK'S, SHALL WE?
SURE.
LAST NIGHT ...

THAT WAS WHAT VANITAS SAID, BUT.
YAWN
I'M TIRED AND SLEEPY
WELL. I DOUBT THERE'S ANY NEED TO WORRY ABOUT AMELIA RUTH NOW
IT SOUNDS LIKE IT.
DO YOU THINK SOMETHING'S HAPPENED?
GALERIE VME
AND ABOUT HIM...
ABOUT MLLE AMELIA
I AM WORRIED, EVEN SO
THOMAS BERNEUX IS DEAD.

FROM THE WAY HE DIED. WE DON'T THINK IT WAS SUICIDE
WHEN MY SISTER AND I CAUGHT UP TO HIM YESTERDAY, HE WAS ALREADY TURNING TO ASHES
WHAT ...!?

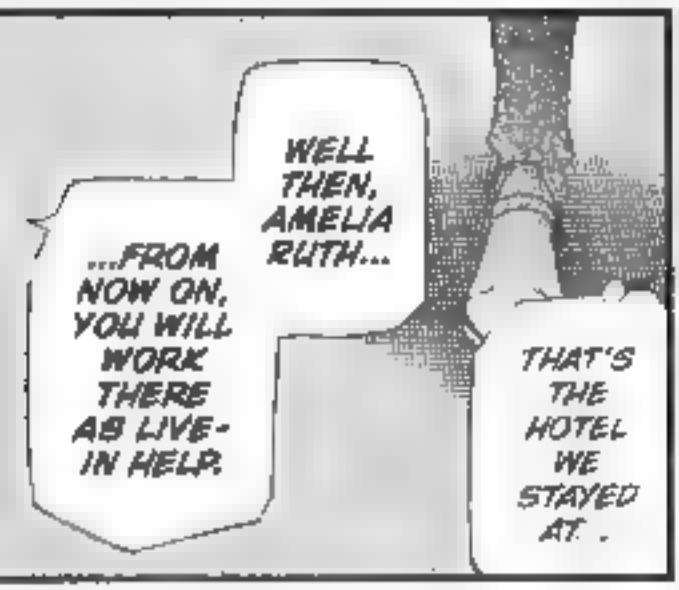
NO. WHO DID IT!?
WE DON'T KNOW! WE'RE LOOKING INTO THAT NOW!


NATURALLY, I DON'T BELIEVE ALL OF IT. HOWEVER. FOR THE MOMENT, I'LL SUSPEND AMELIA RUTH'S EXECUTION.
NOX AND MANET GAVE ME A REPORT REGARDING THE POWER OF THAT BOOK OF YOURS
AND? WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH AMELIA RUTH?
COUNT ORLOK.
!


!!
MONSIEUR NOÉ!
MADEMOISELLE AMELIA!

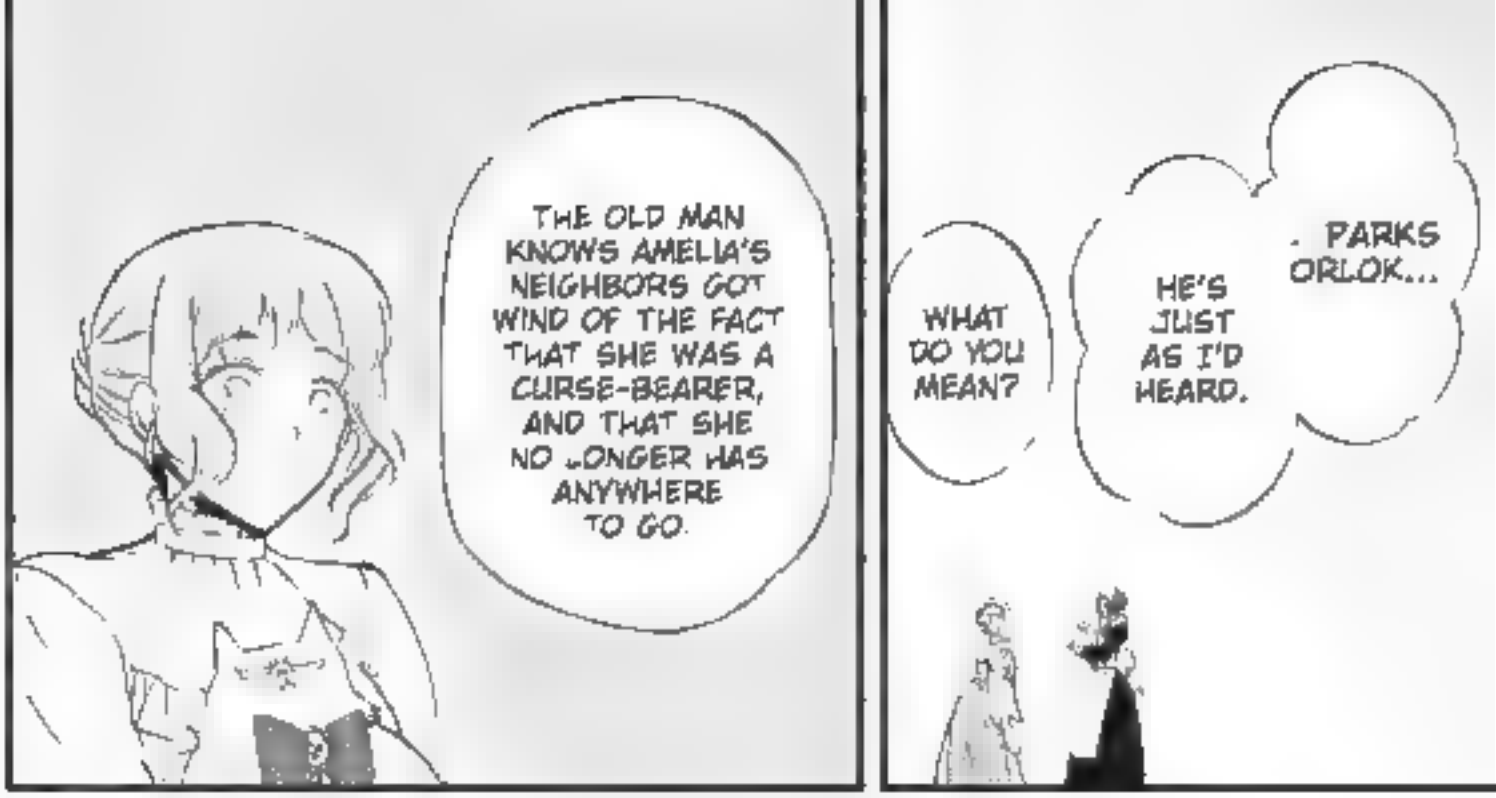
FOR NOW, SHE WIL.. STAY WHERE I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON HER.

WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY SHE WILL LOSE CONTROL AGAIN.
THAT SAID..
YAAAY!


...FROM NOW ON, YOU WILL WORK THERE AS LIVE-IN HELP.
WELL THEN, AMELIA RUTH...
THAT'S THE HOTEL WE STAYED AT.

PFFT!
HUH?

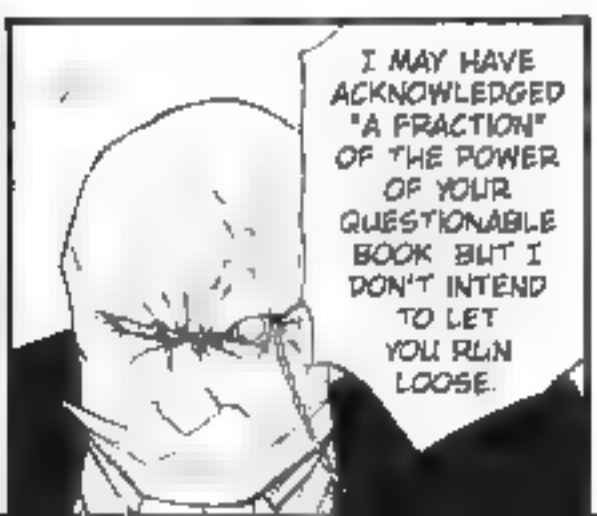
NOX.
YES, SIR
IT SEEMS THAT HÔTEL CHOUCHOU IS CURRENTLY HIRING MAIDS.
I SEE.


THE OLD MAN KNOWS AMELIA'S NEIGHBORS GOT WIND OF THE FACT THAT SHE WAS A CURSE-BEARER, AND THAT SHE NO LONGER HAS ANYWHERE TO GO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HE'S JUST AS I'D HEARD.
. PARKS ORLOK...

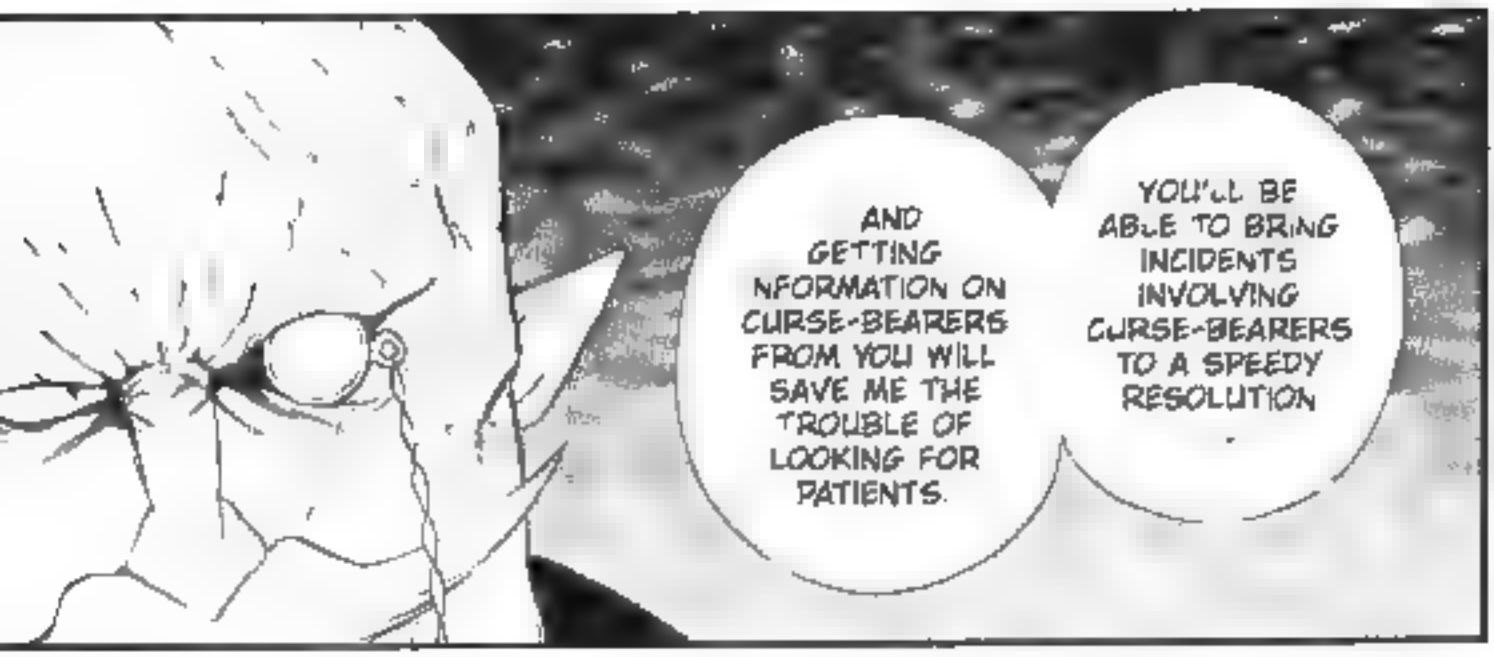
WHAT A JOKE
EASY ON HIS OWN KIND ONLY AT THE VERY END ...

I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT
YOU DIDN'T KILL ME IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE *THE BOOK OF VANITAS* STRUCK YOU AS USEFUL, CORRECT?

HMP?
YOU TOO, HUMAN !!


I MAY HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED "A FRACTION" OF THE POWER OF YOUR QUESTIONABLE BOOK BUT I DON'T INTEND TO LET YOU RUN LOOSE.

USE ME AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE.
THAT'S FINE.


AND GETTING INFORMATION ON CURSE-BEARERS FROM YOU WILL SAVE ME THE TROUBLE OF LOOKING FOR PATIENTS.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BRING INCIDENTS INVOLVING CURSE-BEARERS TO A SPEEDY RESOLUTION.

I'LL HAVE THEM KEEP THAT ROOM FOR THE TWO OF YOU.
GIVE THIS LETTER TO THE FRONT DESK AT HÔTEL CHOUCHOU.

NATURALLY, THERE'S NO NEED FOR US TO BE FRIENDS.
IF EITHER OF US CAUSES TROUBLE FOR THE OTHER, WE'LL JUST PART WAYS.

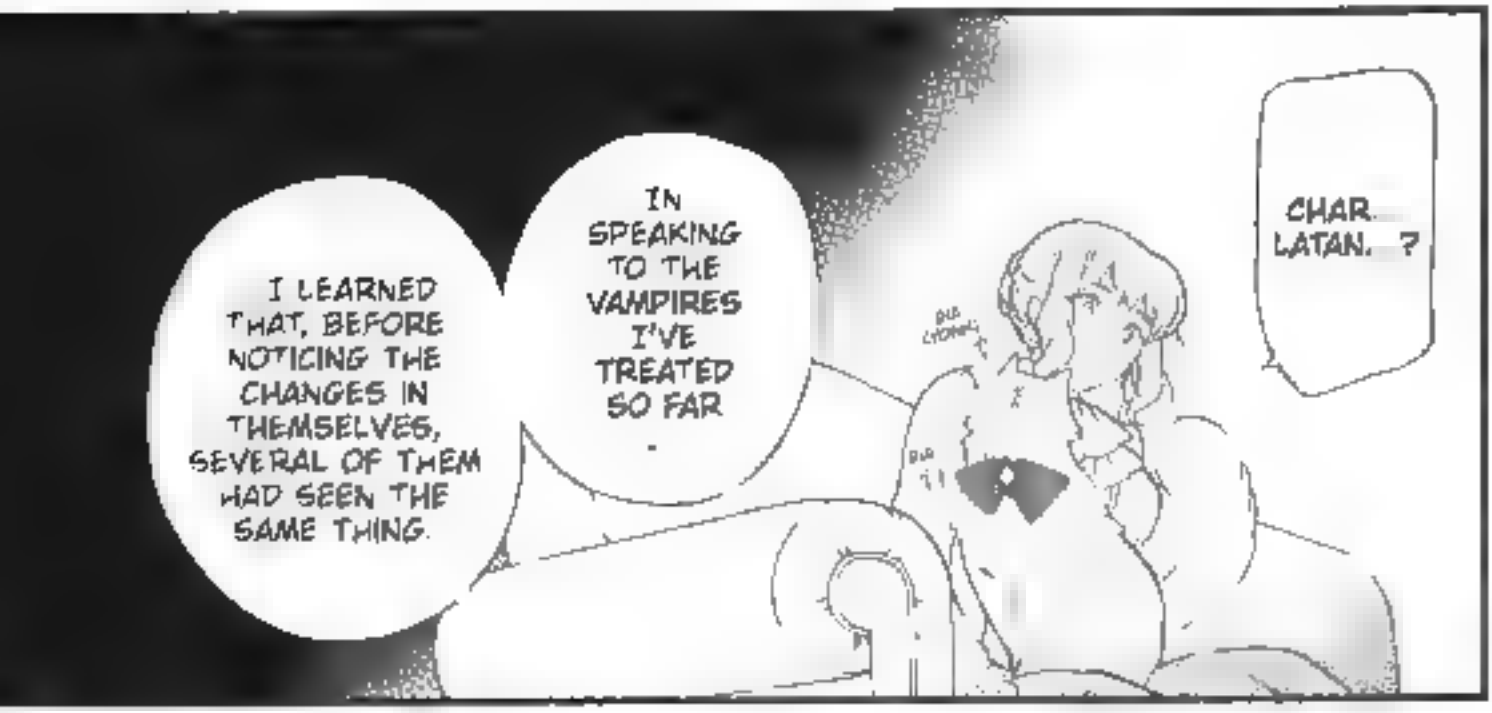
YOU'RE THAT HUMAN'S GUARDIAN, AREN'T YOU?
? YES.
YOU MEAN ME TOO !?
HUH ?
THE TWO OF US?
SUPPOSE THAT'S RIGHT
WHAT YOU'LL BE WATCHING US?
MAKE SURE YOU STAY THERE WHILE YOU'RE N PARIS.
HE'S RIGHT. IF ANYTHING, I'M HIS GUARDIAN.
YOU BE QUIET!
I MOST CERTAINLY AM NOT!!
IF WE'RE DONE DISCUSSING THE FIDDLY DETAILS, CAN WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS?
NOW, THEN.

I CAME TO SPEAK WITH AMELIA.
I STILL HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK HER.
BUT THANK YOU NOT TO...
"BUSINESS"?
HAAAH. I TOLD YOU ALREADY.

YOUR "TALK"...
...HAS TO DO WITH CURSE-BEARERS, CORRECT?
GO AHEAD.
...CAN WE TALK HERE?

IN YOUR LETTER, YOU SAID YOU'D REALIZED YOU WERE A CURSE-BEARER ABOUT TWO MONTHS PREVIOUSLY.
AMELIA.

??
IN OTHER WORDS
YES
DO YOU REMEMBER HAVING ANY SORT OF ODD EXPERIENCE JUST BEFORE THAT?
...DID YOU...
...SEE "CHARLATAN"?


CHAR... LATAN...?
IN SPEAKING TO THE VAMPIRES I'VE TREATED SO FAR
I LEARNED THAT, BEFORE NOTICING THE CHANGES IN THEMSELVES, SEVERAL OF THEM HAD SEEN THE SAME THING.

" I SAW THE PARADE OF CHARLATAN "

"THERE..

THEY SAID, "BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS SURROUNDED BY THICK FOG.

DO YOU THINK THIS CHARLATAN IS CAUSING CURSE-BEARERS TO APPEAR?
I HAVE NO IDEA. THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING HER.

HM. SO IT'S NO GOOD. I SEE

... ...
I'M SORRY... IT FEELS AS THOUGH I DID SEE SOMETHING, AS YOU SAY, BUT...I CAN'T REMEMBER.
I'M VERY SORRY THERE'S NO WING
TRY A LITTLE HARDER, ALL RIGHT?

...WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LOOK?

NOS ARCHIVISTE.

...YOU KNEW ABOUT ME?
BEFORE YOU CAME HERE YESTERDAY, I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM YOUR TEACHER.
THE LETTER HAD YOUR NAME
AND A REQUEST THAT I ASSIST YOU WITH EVERYDAY MATTERS WHILE YOU WERE IN PARIS.
"ARCHI-VISTE!"

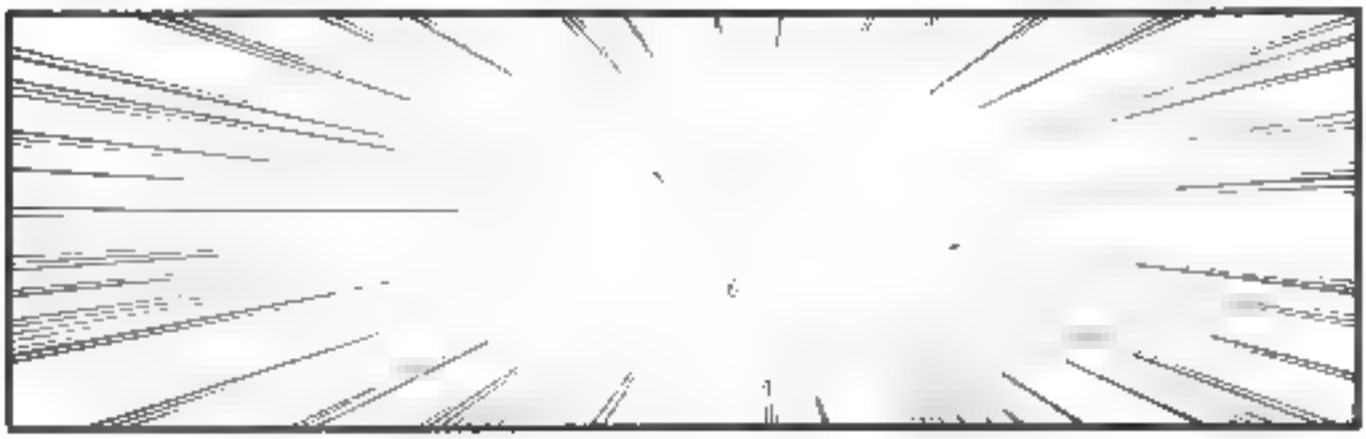
IF THERE IS, PLEASE DO IT.
IS. IS THERE SOME WAY TO SEARCH MY MEMORIES?
UM. .
PLEASE, MONSIEUR NOÉ
I'D BE VERY GLAD TO BE OF USE TO YOU!
...ALL RIGHT.
HUH ?

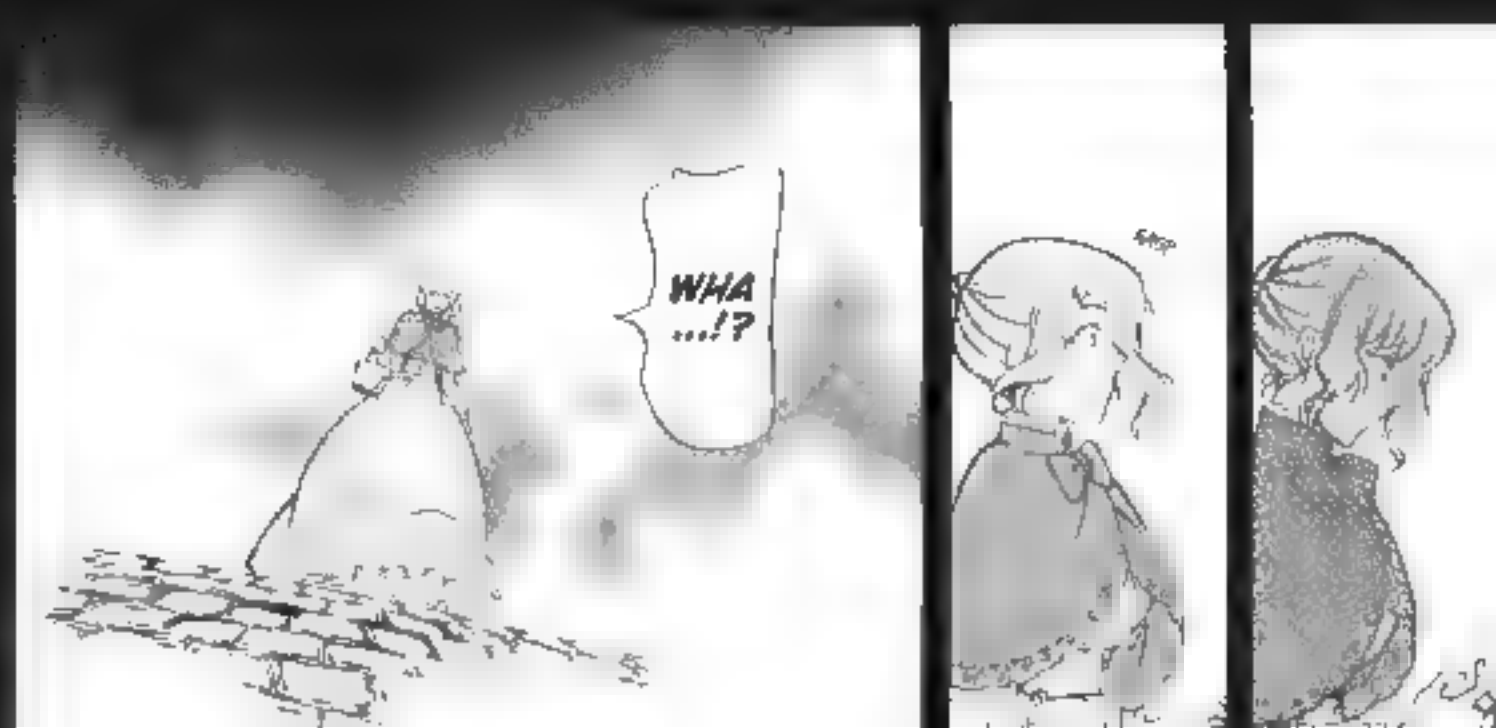
...!?
NOÉ

"FOG."
"CHARLA-TAN."
"PARADE"
UNEARTH THE MEMORY
...EVEN SHE'S FORGOTTEN.
FURTHER
FURTHER ...
DEEPER ...

ONLY I'D HEARD THE ARCHIVISTES PERISHED LONG AGO...
IT'S THE NAME OF A CLAN WITH THE POWER TO READ OTHERS' MEMORIES BY DRINKING THEIR BLOOD
SISTER
WHAT'S AN ARCHIVISTE ?

SHOULD BE—I
FOUND IT
THIS.




WHA ...!?

DID THIS REALLY HAPPEN?
OR IS IT SOMETHING SHE DREAMED?
WHERE WHERE AM I!?
I WAS JUST ON MY WAY HOME, AND.
HUH ?

WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS ?
MF
MF
OF
TO THE PARADE
CHAR-LATAN

I CAN FEEL...
MLLE AMELIA'S TERROR.
AH!!!
"IF THAT CATCHES ME .
"...I'M DONE FOR."
"THAT IS SOMETHING VERY WRONG.
SHE KNEW INSTANTLY.

HA HA
I
HAVE
FOUND
YOU...

MY
HER
LIFE
...
WILL—
WON'T
YOU
SHOW
ME
YOUR
TRUE
NAME
IT'LL BE
DEFILED

AAAA

MONSIEUR NOÉ...!!
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF—! AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?
WE'RE BUSY!!

AH. I DO BEG YOUR PARDON...
...MADEMOISELLE.
!?
THEY TOLD ME...
...NOÉ WAS HERE, SO I STOPPED BY.
IT WAS THAT THING'S FAULT...
MADEMOISELLE AMELIA'S TRUE NAME.
IT WAS STOLEN.
THAT THING STOLE IT.

...FAULT!
THAT THING'S ...
...OR MAYBE YOU DON'T?
HM? DO YOU KNOW ME?
...! YOU'RE...
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER EITHER WAY. LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF.
BASA (FLIP)
KATSU (CRACK)

MY NAME IS DOMINIQUE DE SADE.
I'M NOÉ'S FIANCÉE.
TO BE CONTINUED...